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Dr. Sun would have the courage to assume the coming of the millennium as one of the conditions of the argument. If one still doubts, one may receive practical assurances. "Fortunately, soon after the preliminary part of my programmes had been sent out to the different governments and the Peace Conference, a new consortium was formed for the purpose of assisting China in developing her natural resources. This was initiated by the American Government. Thus we need not fear the lack of capital to start work in our industrial development."

"In this International Development Scheme," writes Dr. Sun, in conclusion, "I venture to present a practical solution for the three great world questions, which are the International War, the Commercial War, and the Class War. As it has been discovered by post-Darwin philosophers that the primary force of human evolution is co-operation and not struggle, as that of the animal world, so the fighting nature, a residue from the animal instinct in man, must be eliminated from man, the sooner the better." All of which is, no doubt, sound philosophy, but appears to afford a somewhat doctrinaire basis for Dr. Sun's intensely practical proposals.

It is difficult to resist the suggestion that Dr. Sun, sensible of the weakness of the government of which he is the titular head and fearing the consequences of continued political division in China, is simply trying to make the strongest possible bid for foreign support, and is at the same time endeavoring to impress the Chinese people with the magnificence of the future as he conceives it.

SIR EDWARD COOK, K. B. E. A Biography by J. Saxon Mills, M. A. New York: E. P. Dutton & Company.

Mr. Mills has produced an excellent piece of biographical writing, of which the only real fault is that, in conformity with Sir Edward Cook's own uncompromising standards for biography, it treats its subject with rather too much reserve and with rather too strict a regard for the principle of unity.

Sir Edward Cook made his mark, first, as editor of the old *Pall Mall Gazette*, of which journal he took charge on January 1, 1890, after the resignation of W. T. Stead—that remarkable man, whose alternating phases of genius and of mere idiosyncrasy the biographer has succeeded in representing with an acuteness and a justice that must have satisfied Cook himself. The sale of the "*P. M. G.*," two years later, to William Waldorf Astor terminated Cook's connection with a periodical which he had made a model of the best in modern journalism. Shortly afterward, Sir Edward became editor of *The Westminster Gazette*—a periodical which he built up *ab initio* and for which he created an enviable reputation. When, however, he left *The Westminster* to assume editorial charge of *The Daily News*, the change was felt to be an advancement. The end of Cook's work on *The Daily News*, like the severance of his connection with *The Pall Mall Gazette*, came like a bolt from the blue, when in

December, 1900, arrangements were completed for selling the former paper to a pro-Boer syndicate—an event which made impossible the continuance as editor of one who had been chiefly distinguished for his firm, though moderate, advocacy of Liberal Imperialism. Thereafter, for several years, Cook was a leader-writer on *The Daily Chronicle*, a mere subordinate. One can only wonder at the fate which condemned a man of so much ability, influence, and judgment to a relatively obscure position. Apart from journalism, Cook's literary labors—especially his monumental edition of Ruskin—entitle him to a high place.

The story is chiefly that of an independent conscience and intellect at work among the conditions of actual politics. Accepting the practical necessity and value of moderate partisanship, Cook stressed always the superior value of independent support. His letter to Mr. Arnold Morley, one of the proprietors of *The Daily News*, who had urged him to cater to the views of extreme Non-Conformists, is a masterly lesson in sound journalism. Several times he made extreme personal sacrifices in the cause of principle. The testimony of all who knew him declares the soundness and independence of his judgment. Never tolerating dulness in a newspaper for which he was responsible, he consistently resisted the drift toward sensationalism. By nature quite as much a statesman as a journalist, he was at one time almost an unofficial Foreign Secretary.

Mr. Mills has given us some choice anecdotes and character sketches in connection with his central narrative; Cook's own diary being replete with very expressive thumb-nail sketches of his contemporaries. The story is particularly full in its references to W. E. Gladstone, to Lord Randolph Churchill, and to Ruskin. Concerning the last of these there is an anecdote that deserves to be preserved in amber. This is Ruskin's plaint about the modern circus. "The first thing I did at Folkestone," he said, "was to go to Sanger's Circus, but there wasn't half enough clown. And the elephants were shown off too much: the real charm in an elephant is to watch his native sagacity. And the chariot race was terrible—the vulgarization of the noblest thing, I suppose, in Greece." Perhaps nothing more characteristic has ever been told.

But while the narrative is rewarding in its slight divergences from the straight path of biography, one wishes that the author had given more of Cook's setting and had treated more fully the political history of the time. It is one's impression that the book might with advantage have been amplified by about one-third.

GEORGE WASHINGTON. By William Roscoe Thayer. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.

The peculiar value of Mr. Thayer's biography of Washington arises principally from one cause—that Mr. Thayer has correctly estimated the difficulty